

THE CHARLOTTE JOURNAL.

"A UNION OF THE WHIGS FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION"—WISSE.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., NOVEMBER 19, 1840.

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TERMS.

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Col. R. M. Graham, Charlotte, N. C.
Chas. W. Harris, Mill Grove, N. C.

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NOVEMBER, 1840.	MOON'S PHASES.
15 Thursday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
20 Friday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
21 Saturday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
22 Sunday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
23 Monday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
24 Tuesday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	
25 Wednesday 7 55 A. M. Per Nov. 1840.	

REVOLUTIONARY REMINISCENCES.

FROM THE REMINISCENCES OF MR. JEFFERSON.

MEANS. EXTRAORDINARY. I have long believed that one of the most important means of honoring the memory of a deceased Revolutionary patriot was, by publishing in the journals of our country, on each anniversary of his birth, some of the most important acts of his life. In accordance with this belief, I wish to recall to the remembrance of my fellow citizens a patriot, who was a co-laborer with THOMAS JEFFERSON in effecting the Declaration of Independence of our country by Congress, on the 4th of July, 1776; a patriot, whom Mr. Jefferson justly styled "Chief of the Revolution," (viz. chief among the chiefs), in bringing about that most important of all political acts or declarations of our Revolutionary Congress.

On the 30th day of October, 1733, the Great Disposer of events was pleased to give to our country one of its most highly patriotic and useful sons. On that day JOHN ADAMS, the subject of my present remarks, was born. His great talents, improved by education, and a mind glowing with patriotism and love of virtue, and possessing a firmness which, in the discharge of his duty, caused him to disregard difficulties and dangers, fitted him, in an extraordinary manner, to become an energetic encourager and leader among that patriot band that declared our country free and independent.

Mr. ADAMS was appointed a member of the first Congress, in 1774, and became one of its most distinguished leading members, and was re-appointed to it in 1775; in the summer of which he nominated GEORGE WASHINGTON for the appointment of "Commander in Chief of all the forces raised, or to be raised," in defence of American liberty. In the same year, (viz. 1775), THOMAS JEFFERSON, who acted the important part of draughting the Declaration of Independence, was appointed a member, and took his seat in Congress, when a warm friendship took place between him and Mr. ADAMS, which ended only with their lives. They both took their flight for the boundless realms of eternity on the afternoon of the 4th of July, 1800; the anniversary of a day which their associated labors had contributed so conspicuously to secure to the most memorable in the annals of our nation.

From the commencement of the war by the British nation against the Thirteen United Colonies, Mr. ADAMS saw the necessity of preparing the minds of the people, and particularly the minds of the members of Congress, for shaking off all connection with the British Government. But it was a subject that required the most skillful management, as the members of Congress, as well as the people, seemed averse to shaking off the subject until the evening came. And then, when it was first known by many in Philadelphia that Mr. ADAMS was in favor of such a project, he was shunned by them as being a dangerous man, whose society, in consequence of the boldness of his views, might draw upon them the suspicion of entertaining similar views; and it was only by continual perseverance that he brought even the boldest of his fellow patriots to unite with him in bringing the subject forward upon the floor of Congress.

But, with all his exertions, Mr. ADAMS did not effect his object until early in June, 1776; and it was very doubtful whether he would have succeeded then, if the Convention of Virginia had not instructed the members of Congress from that colony to move in effecting such a measure. The vote for giving the instruction for this purpose was given on the 17th day of the preceding month of May; and in conformity with an engagement concerted between RICHARD HENRY LEE and JOHN ADAMS, on the 7th of June, 1776, the following motion was made by Mr. LEE, and seconded by Mr. ADAMS, "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

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When, at length, the reported declaration, as framed by Mr. JEFFERSON, was laid before Congress, that body treated it with great severity, and altered and struck out about one-fourth part of it, which was the cause of much vexation to him; but, in addition to this, he had to experience the pain of listening to a long speech by one of the most learned and eloquent members on that floor against adopting the declaration; and such was the discouraging effect of the long string of objections brought forward by that member, that several of the members have expressed to the writer of this that it was their belief that, if a vote had been immediately taken at the closing of that speech, a majority would have voted against adopting the declaration.

This became a painfully embarrassing moment to Mr. JEFFERSON. According to the usual practice, a reply to the speech of the objecting member ought to have been made by him in defence of his reported declaration; but he did not possess a talent for speaking in public bodies, although he was a ready writer. But the bold and powerfully eloquent JOHN ADAMS rose, and so firmly riveted the attention of the members, that they could pay attention to nothing but his reasoning and the subject he was reasoning upon, and could give no account of the length of time that he occupied in addressing them. His eloquence must have been of the most powerful description, as, by the account of it by Mr. JEFFERSON and others, in closing his address, he started every member from his seat; and, as an indisputable evidence of the merit and powerful effect of his speech, no other member thought that Mr. ADAMS had left a single word that was necessary for any of his fellow members to add; and no other speech was made in Congress, either in refutation of the argument of the objecting member, or in defence of the Declaration of Independence, after Mr. JEFFERSON's report was presented on the floor.

Although none who did not witness the perils of the times when the Declaration of Independence was made can appreciate properly the merit of Mr. JEFFERSON, in engaging in such a responsible act as that of framing the declaration; and although he was much applauded for the part he performed in that important work, yet the applause which Mr. ADAMS received from members of Congress and the People for his bold and persevering labors in bringing about that inexpressibly important event was still greater, and was noticed with a similar distinction to that made by Mr. JEFFERSON, but was expressed in different words. Instead of saying with Mr. JEFFERSON, in his classical style, that Mr. ADAMS was chief among the Aegonians in that adventurous achievement, they often alluded to the case of Saul and David by saying that, in overcoming the obstacles that were opposed to the Declaration of Independence in Congress, JEFFERSON had slain Goliath, and ADAMS his men of thousands.

The effect of Mr. ADAMS's speech was so great that there were but two members that declined voting for and signing the Declaration of Independence. I confidently believe that no well-informed person will deny that this declaration, when connected with all its bearings and effects, was the most important political decision ever agreed to by the Representatives of a People; and not a firmly held that no person will deny that Mr. ADAMS's speech in defense of that declaration was the most important political speech ever addressed to a deliberative assembly.

The powerful effect of the eloquence of Mr. ADAMS, on great occasions, is well attested by Mr. WIER, who says that "he could not only check the maddest torrent of popular frenzy, but could even head that torrent when it had taken a wrong direction, and roll it back to its source."

The writer of this, in his boyhood, witnessed a scene of horror, in which Mr. ADAMS gave evidence of his possessing this power to a high degree: this was at the time of the Boston massacre, in 1770, on the 8th of March, when several of the inhabitants were slaughtered by a detachment of soldiers belonging to one of the two British regiments then quartered in that place. A fearful tumult immediately arose, which not only threatened the destruction of the actors in the bloody deed, but the lives of all the British troops indiscriminately.

Among the leading patriots of that day, none were believed to have had more influence in calming that tumult and saving the lives of the British troops than JOHN ADAMS. This gave time for removing them to islands in the harbor; this being done, and the actors in the slaughter being imprisoned, what might have been called a gloomy tranquility took place; but the signs and omens of death, with the tolling of bells, continued some days. The British troops, when they were removed, were in great fear of being attacked by the populace, although they were protected by some leading patriots. But Mr. ADAMS little thought that he would soon have the rage of the same populace that had frightened two British regiments directed against himself; but, however unexpected, it actually took place.

Mr. ADAMS, being a leader of the bar, and eminent for legal knowledge and eloquence, was called upon to act as counsel for in defending the soldiers who had been actors in the recent massacre; and, as soon as it was known that he had consented to discharge that unpleasant duty, a general clamor was raised against him, which did not entirely subside until after the trial was over; but, at the commencement of the trial, the populace were more clamorous than before, and their vociferations were heard by the Court; in the midst of which, Mr. ADAMS called upon the jury to disregard them, and to be deaf as adders to the cries of the surrounding crowd. The jury took courage, and the cries of the populace diminished as those near the court heard the arguments of Mr. ADAMS, and at length calmness extended to the borders of the crowd, and most of them were so convinced that he had acted meritoriously that they bestowed upon him the highest rewards in their power. He was chosen as their representative in the Legislature of the then colony of Massachusetts, and was also chosen a member of the first Congress in 1774. These evidences of respect from the inhabitants of Boston must have been very gratifying to Mr. ADAMS, as most of the people of that place had censoriously disapproved of his engaging in the defence of the accused British soldiers; and it must have been a proud triumph to him to have rescued the accused strangers from a sentence of death, and at the same time to have convinced their accusers and the people that such a sentence, carried into execution, would have been barbarous murder, and would have involved the accessories to it in guilt, and brought disgrace upon themselves and their country, as it was clearly proved that the slaughter had taken place in the midst of a tumult, in which the soldiers had been violently assailed.

The complete success of Mr. ADAMS in this last trial alone would fully prove the correctness of Mr. WIER's description of his powerful eloquence; but in this instance he not only checked the maddened torrent of popular frenzy, and rolled it back to its source, but he even caused it to contribute to the credit of the tribunals of his country for impartial justice and to his own fame. The important services of Mr. ADAMS, both at home and abroad, in effecting the independence of our nation, entitle him to the gratitude of the present and future generations. He was not only acknowledged leader in bringing about the Declaration of Independence, but he was also the leading commissioner in obtaining the acknowledgment of that independence by George III. The names of the commissioners that signed the preliminary articles and definite treaty of peace were signed in the order so which they are here placed:

British Commissioner,	RICHARD OWEN.
American do.	JOHN ADAMS.
do do	BENJ. FRANKLIN.
do do	JOHN JAY.
do do	HENRY LAURENS.

To the definitive treaty the names stand thus:

American Plenipotentiary,	JOHN ADAMS.
British do.	DAVID HARTLEY.
American do.	BENJ. FRANKLIN.
do do	JOHN JAY.

In negotiating these two treaties, Mr. ADAMS was the head; although he had great support from his eminent associates, yet the burden of counteracting the designs of the British and French cabinets fell upon him; yet, with the support of his colleagues, he obtained better terms than were anticipated by Congress.

The high encomiums bestowed upon him by Congress, and the warm thanks presented to him by Congress, on his return

from Europe, furnish the most indisputable evidence of the high estimation in which his services were justly held. The following is a Congressional resolve in 1787:

Resolved, That the honorable JOHN ADAMS, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of London, be permitted, agreeably to his request, to return to America at any time after the 1st day of February, in the year of our Lord 1787; and that his commission of Plenipotentiary to their high magnitudes do also then expire.

Resolved, That Congress entertain a high sense of the services which Mr. ADAMS rendered to the United States in the execution of the various important trusts which they have from time to time committed to him; and that the thanks of Congress be presented to him for the patriotism, perseverance, integrity, and diligence with which he has ably and faithfully served his country.

Fellow-citizens, think of these things. Among the leading patriots of our Revolution, no one, except WASHINGTON, contributed more to give us a country and to establish our liberties than JOHN ADAMS. The writer of this was a soldier of the Revolution; he is now upwards of eighty years of age, and has often been afflicted by the ungrateful treatment Mr. ADAMS received from some of his countrymen; but he had always the friendship and approbation of WASHINGTON, PATRICK HENRY, JUDGE MARSHALL, and of most of the best informed and virtuous men of our country; and it was only for want of correct information that he had not the grateful applause of all.

WILL. WILLIS.
MONROE COUNTY, VA. OCT. 21, 1840.

NEW JERSEY.
The Legislature of New Jersey met on Tuesday last. We have received a copy of Governor PENNINGTON's Message to the Houses. The following is what he says of the outrage perpetrated by the Van Buren party in Congress on the rights of the State. The spirit and tone of the Governor's language are such as suit the occasion:

"In the issue of this great struggle New Jersey has a deep interest. Her citizens have a common destiny with the rest of the Union; but while they share in common burdens, they intend also to share in common privileges. Firmly attached to the form of Government under which it has pleased a benignant Providence to cast their lot, they will be the last to withhold due allegiance to it, so long as they are permitted to enjoy those equal rights which a proper self-respect demands. Recent occurrences have, indeed, awakened a feeling in the breasts of the great body of the People of this State, which a sense of wrong, deep wrong, inflicted without an apology, must always inspire. The present House of Representatives of the United States has denied to New Jersey a right which has never before been denied to any member of the Union, and which, under the Constitution, could never have been denied to her: the right of commissioning, according to her own laws, members to represent her in that body. This right is vital to the very existence of the Federal Government, and if its exercise be denied to any one of the States, no Congress can be constitutionally organized. The attempt to extenuate the enormity of this measure, by charging the State authorities with violation of their trust, is an unworthy subterfuge. What has Congress to do with your State officers?—Are not the People of the State competent to pass judgment on their own acts without the interference of strangers who have no regard to her laws and her institutions?—If there be any question on that subject, let it be settled between those officers and their constituents. It is sufficient to command the respect of Congress in the first instance, and in form agreeable to the laws of the State. That this proceeding is a violation of all principles and usage, cannot be made more manifest than by the fact that it is the parliamentary history of the country or the world. During the three weeks in which this question was debated, no precedent, either in the records of this or any other country, could be furnished to justify it. I shall not again enter upon a defence of the course pursued in granting the commissions. That proceeding has been fully explained on a former occasion, and it has twice received the sanction of the People of the State. Further to discuss it would be an insult to that expression of public opinion from which there is no appeal. But I go beyond this point. Whatever differences of opinion might exist in reality, or be feigned for party purposes on that question, Congress cannot, within the legitimate exercise of its authority, go behind the seal of the State. They must recognize that, or there can be no return of members from the State at all. After that is recognized, and the members take their seats, then, for the first time, the subject is under the control and direction of the House. It has uniformly been so held in the House of Representatives heretofore, and it must and will be so held hereafter.

"The New Jersey case will, in all after-times, be considered an invasion of the rights of one of the sovereign States of the Union, for the purpose of securing the power of a party. Fortunately for the country, it has had the effect to open the eyes of the People to the actual condition of their Government, and taught them the danger of confiding their interests to men who have lived too long in the sunshine of Executive patronage. The subsequent action of Congress in placing individuals, without warrant, and before investigation, in the seats, and that too while the commissioned members were absent under the authority of the committee, taking testimony to substantiate

their claims, and the final decision of the House by a strict party vote, without hearing, or even so much as looking at the evidence, presents a scene of violence and wrong wholly without precedent or apology. If the treatment which New Jersey has suffered had been received at the hands of a foreign Power, war must have been the inevitable consequence. But she has been wounded in 'the house of her friends'—and a resort to force must have involved not only foes but friends. She has looked to peaceful remedies, and made her appeal to the justice and patriotism of the country, and all the signs of the times give unerring indication that the appeal has not been in vain. A great principle had been invaded, which affected alike all the States and all the people of the States, and it was eminently proper that their attention should be called to it in a manner adapted to secure their most deliberate consideration.

"The subject, I am happy to say, has awakened a lively interest throughout the country. Nor has it been confined to any party. Many of the friends of the Administration have disapproved the whole proceedings at Washington. Indeed, all men who look beyond the present struggle, and have a desire to see peace and order prevail, cannot but view it as revolutionary and subversive of the very foundation of representative government. Several of the State Legislatures, with a spirit worthy of enlightened freemen, have boldly denounced the measure as an infringement of the rights of the States, and declared their determination to make common cause with us. The popular indignation has been expressed in many places, and by large assemblies of the People in various parts of the Union; but I recur with special gratification to the solemn protest of fifty thousand of the intelligent freemen of New England recently assembled at Bunker Hill. 'We protest,' says the Declaration put forth on that occasion, 'against the conduct of the House of Representatives in the case of the New Jersey election. This is not a local, but a general question. In the union of the States, on whatever link the blow of injustice or usurpation falls, it is felt, and ought to be felt, throughout the whole chain.'—The cause of New Jersey is the cause of every State, and every State is therefore bound to vindicate it."

"But, while we duly appreciate these grateful expressions of sympathy, let me remind you, gentlemen, that we have a solemn duty to perform. To us, as citizens of New Jersey, is committed in a special manner the vindication of her rights, and it becomes every Jerseyman to embrace the only mode prescribed by the Constitution to express his honest indignation and assert the sovereignty of his State. The citizens who could passively consent to see the seal of his State, which is the emblem of her sovereignty, prostrated in the dust, may justly be pronounced unworthy to enjoy the protection which it ensures. It is gratifying to believe that those who have thus violated our rights are likely to be deprived of the power to inflict further wounds on the Union; but, should a like encroachment be attempted under any administration of this Government, it will become the duty of the Legislature to convene an assembly of the People to consider measures of security and protection."

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The remainder of the Message is devoted to local State interests. The Governor recommends abolition of imprisonment for debt, where no fraud is suspected.

Dreadful Earthquake.—The account of the falling of a part of Mount Ararat shaken down by an earthquake, with a terrible destruction of human life is confirmed. The St. Petersburg Abbe de Nord of September 11th, publishes the following letter, dated Tiflis, August 13th:

"You have, doubtless heard, of the terrible earthquake of Mount Ararat, which has totally destroyed the town of Makitchman, damaged all the buildings at Erivan, and devastated the two districts of Sharour and Sevan, in Armenia. All the villages in those districts have been destroyed. The earth is rent in such a manner, that all the cotton and rice plantations have perished for want of water. But the most awful event has taken place in the neighborhood of Mount Ararat. A considerable rock was loosened from the mountain, and destroyed every thing in its way for the distance of seven wrosts, (nearly five English miles.)

Among others, the great village of Akhoul has had the fate of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Above one thousand inhabitants were buried under heaps of rocks. A thick fluid, which afterwards became a river, ran from the interior of the mountain, which was opened, and following the same direction, swept over the ruins, and carried with it the corpses of the unfortunate inhabitants of Akhoul, the dead animals, &c. The shock continued to be felt every day in the above mentioned districts and entirely laid them waste; then the shocks became less frequent. Ararat is not yet quiet; the day before yesterday I was awakened by two violent subterranean commotions.

Time.—We try to deceive ourselves as to the shortness of time, and so we divide and measure it in large portions, years and centuries. The succession of minutes seems like the swift following of waves in a brook, and a year or an age is like a vast sea, the motion of which escapes our notice. In large cities we tend to forget the shortness of life in its multiplicity, for every man seems to protect his neighbor, just as in an army, we think only of those who survive, not of those who have fallen.

EMBLEMS.
One of the best things of the kind that we have ever heard of, was displayed at the great meeting in Cincinnati, when Gen. Harrison addressed the multitude. The procession was graced by a large and splendid canoe on wheels, drawn by six horses; in this open vehicle there were twenty-six beautiful little girls representing the States, with neat and appropriate banners in their hands, and all clad in virgin white, save New Jersey, whose sable weeds and dejected air excited the interest of all spectators.

TO THE VICTORS, &c.
Gen. Howard, the Loco Foco Candidate for Governor of Indiana, has received the appointment of Governor of Iowa Territory, vice Gov. Lucas, whose term of service has expired. This was no more than was expected. Whom the People reject, the President appoints—thus showing that the latter has no regard for the feelings and interests of the former.

Well who blames them.—The Census takers in some parts of the County, we understand, were a good deal bothered with the ages of the girls thinking it rather remarkable that none reported themselves over 16. Ten fair daughters were found in one family—all between the ages of 12 and 16.—Southern Citizen.

A Steam Frigate is building at Philadelphia, the extreme length of which to the figure head is 244 feet, breadth 40 feet, depth of hold 23½ feet. The paddle wheels are entirely of wrought iron, 29 feet 8 inches diameter, and 10 feet bucket. The main shaft is of wrought iron, 1 foot 6 inches diameter.

Mr. Webster.—The Boston Atlas says:—"We regret to learn that Mr. Webster is quite ill at his farm in Franklin, N. H. He was unable to be at Salisbury on Monday, according to his engagement; and it is altogether probable that the state of his health will not allow him to visit any of the other places where he has been expected before the election."

Captain Easy, of this city has succeeded in raising the hulk of the old frigate New York, which has been sunk in the Potomac for a number of years, and has removed it to his ship yard.

The Northeastern Boundary.—A correspondent of the Boston Mercantile Journal, writing from Bangor on Wednesday last, says:

"Two of the young men who accompanied the Boundary Commissioners have arrived in this city. I am informed that the whole ground has been carefully examined, and that the Commissioners are on their return. Their report will probably come to us by the way of Washington; and until we get it, we must put up with such information as may casually fall from those connected with the expedition.

"I am informed that there is not a doubt upon the mind of the Commissioners that the line claimed by the Americans is the true one."

The Way they Crow in Georgia.—The Editor of the News and Gazette, published at Washington, Ga. exults over the result of the recent contest in that State, in the following manner:

"Don't talk to us about your One hundred or your Ten thousand guns—all the powder magazines in the world could not furnish priming for the guns that ought to be fired to celebrate the people's victory in Georgia, and a million of such cannons as that Turkish one, which was so big that a family of twenty-one persons lived in it comfortably, (using the touch hole for a chimney) could not speak loud enough to express the joy of the Harrison party at the glorious triumph they have achieved.—Some body loan us a volcano or a full grown earthquake, perhaps they might do, and we will promise not to let them off till after the 2d of November; then, locofocos hold on to your hair."

Let it be borne in mind, that the getters up of the infamous New York plot are Stevenson, a discarded Tobacco Inspector, B. F. Butler, U. S. Attorney, with a salary of \$40,000 per year, and J. Hoyt, Collector of the Port, with an immense salary, and with officers under him, whose salaries amount to over \$500,000 a year! All these spoilers wish to retain their places—hence the conspiracy against certain leading Whigs of New York. But, thanks to Providence, their Plot at the very outset, has been blown sky high!—sky high!—Baltimore Patriot.

Resumption of specie payments.—The Philadelphia National Gazette of last Saturday, good authority, says: "It is now ascertained, and we state the fact with great pleasure, that the arrangements among the Banks of Philadelphia, for a general resumption of specie payments on the 15th of January next, (the day designated by the Legislature), are in progress, and will without any doubt, be consummated in the course of a few days."

The Philadelphia Ledger, says: "In corroboration of this last declaration, it is said that the United States Bank has submitted a statement of its resources to the leading banks, and that they have expressed themselves satisfied of its solvency and ultimate ability to liquidate all its liabilities.—Charlottesville.

The Loco Foco now say that Kendall's going into the Extra Globe was the prettiest piece of Jersey Diddleism of modern times. He "charged along the whole line," and took a dollar from the entire standing army.

